

Public Arts Commission of Oxford  
**Virtual Meeting**  
Tuesday, November 10, 2020, 4:30PM

### **Minutes of the meeting**

Present: Steve Sullivan, Chair; Edna Southard, Vice-Chair; Robert Benson, Recording Secretary; Carole Katz, Norm Krumpe  
Absent: Stefanie Hilles (excused), Joe Prescher  
Guests: Jessica Greene (Ass't. City Manager), Gretchen Blackwell (intern, City of Oxford)

1. The virtual meeting of the Public Arts Commission of Oxford (PACO) was **called to order by Chair Steve Sullivan at 4:35PM.**

2. The **Agenda** was approved

3. The **Minutes** of the October 13, 2020 PACO virtual meeting were approved.

### **4. New Business**

**Presentation and Discussion: Creative Place-Making** by Gretchen Blackwell and Waverly Dooling, interns, City of Oxford  
After an introduction by Jessica Greene, Gretchen Blackwell presented a PowerPoint that she and Waverly Dooling had made.

The PPT began with the definition of six goals:

1. Create visitor destinations
2. Raise awareness of Oxford's different commercial districts
3. Raise awareness of art
4. Encourage creativity to blossom
5. Enliven neighborhoods
6. Facilitate artistic, creative and entrepreneurial businesses

Ms. Blackwell then suggested several places that would satisfy most or all of the goals. These were the following:

1. The green space behind the Sigma Chi building at the SE corner of the Uptown Park which would be a good site for an art installation
2. The alley wall of the uptown parking structure where murals or other art could be displayed
3. The uptown parking lot occupied on Saturdays by the Farmers' Market
4. Uptown alleys that could be sites for outdoor dining or for the installation and display of art

Phase #1 Possible Projects:

1. Uptown parking structure
2. Uptown parking lot (using Oxford signage and art similar to what has been done in Cleveland)

3. The green space behind the Sigma Chi building for use as a creative dining space with art installation, sidewalk murals, or dramatic lighting

Proposed Timeline:

November 11: P&G Greater Cincinnati Grant - Grant proposal due in December  
NEA Our Town Grant

Steve Sullivan asked if we could use CARES funding for any of these projects. One of the early projects that PACO considered was an archway entrance to the uptown parking lot/Farmers' Market. The proposal seemed to founder but could be revived.

Jessica noted that she and the interns will help PACO if we have an idea and want to run with it. The interns believe that the lot behind the Sigma Chi building is the best place to start for several reasons. This could be done at the same time as the Farmers' Market Arch.

Later, we could take on the uptown parking structure alley façade mural and another larger project.

**Bob Benson moved** that PACO collaborate with the city interns to develop grant applications for two projects: (1) a light display, green (nature) art, and outdoor dining on the space behind the Sigma Chi building; and (2) the design and construction of an archway entrance to the Farmers' Market on the uptown parking lot.

The motion was **seconded by Carole Katz** and **passed unanimously**.

It was suggested that PACO write a letter of support for a temporary exhibit (the outdoor area behind the Sigma Chi building) and a permanent installation (the Market archway).

Jessica Greene reminded us that PACO members can discuss plans individually with her and the interns but we cannot discuss these matters privately with each other due to sunshine laws. Discussion must take place at our regular public meetings.

PACO will need to contact artists and technical people to get information for the purposes of developing a budget.

There should also be a "soft call" for art that percolates through the Oxford community. Jessica advised us to focus on marketing in order to elicit ideas and support from artists and other members of the community.

Bob Benson agreed to write the letter of support in collaboration with Jessica and the interns.

## **5. Old Business**

### **A. Review the Current Call for Art**

The City of Oxford had hoped to generate proposals for plywood murals to be lit by black light for the uptown area. However, Jessica Greene indicated that there wasn't enough time to market and develop proposal ideas. Up to eight murals will be done, some by high school students.

Jessica indicated that the City plans to revisit this idea next year with a better time line based on this year's experience. The idea will be to view this year as a "preview" of what will happen and then conduct preparation and planning in April and May 2021 with contracts signed in June. PACO is not responsible for this at this point.

### **B. Bike Rack at OPD**

Norm reported that he, Stefanie and Edna met with John Jones (Chief of Police) and Mike Dreisbach (Director of Services for the City). Both John and Mike like the proposal but preferred one of the sites that Norm and Stefanie had decided against. Although they thought that the site that PACO recommended was acceptable, they thought that the area at the corner of Poplar and High which is landscaped would be the best. The committee believes that this may indeed be the best site after all.

The next step is to plot out the area with sidewalk and other minor changes and then put out a call for design proposals. Norm and Stefanie will continue to follow up with this.

### **C. Update on Insurance**

Steve Sullivan met with Donna Stevens at OCAC to ascertain where the agreement that he and Caroline Crosswell worked out stands. They discovered that there is no official record of the agreement between OCAC and PACO. Steve Sullivan provided e-mail correspondence with Caroline Crosswell that indicates that she had spoken with and gotten an agreement with the OCAC insurance agent. The OCAC attorney then wrote a MOU with the City that was never approved by the OCAC Board or presented to the City of Oxford.

Jessica Greene recommended that the City has so much on its table right now that we should hold off on pursuing this for a while.

All PACO commissioners should look at and study the catalog. In the future, there will be no deletions, only additions and possibly corrections.

#### **D. Mission and Vision Statements**

This discussion was tabled until the December meeting due to lack of time for discussion.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was **adjourned at 5:29PM**

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Benson, Recording Secretary